As regards increasing the price of 26 items of Unit Exchange spares, M/s. A.B.B. have not increased the price of these spares after third rebid in June, 1991. In fact, A.B.B. reduced the price of spares by 11% during negotiations held in November, 1991.

(c) The letter of acceptance was issued to M/s. A.B.B. on 18-3-92. The award of detailed contract was pended in view of advice received from RCC to pend further action till they submit the report to the Parliament. RCC's report on the subject has since been received. Further action in respect of this contract is under consideration of the Government.

One Family—One Child Norm

*229. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to adopt one family—one child norm in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c) It is not considered feasible to adopt 'one family—one child norm' in the country given the present levels of total fertility rate of 3.9(1989) and infant mortality rate of 80 per 1000 live births (SRS : 1990).

Canadian help for Improvement of National Highways

*230. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to avail of the services of Canadian Government for improvement of the highways in selected States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the criteria applied for selecting such States;

(c) whether Government propose to include National Highway No. 8, No. 3 and No. 4, being the main highways used for transportation to the interior of the country from Bombay port under the programme, and if so, the details therof; and

(d) if the above highways have not been selected under the above programme, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) At present there is no proposal for Canadian financial assistance for improvement of highways in the country.

Action Plan for Critically Polluted Areas in the Country

*231. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared Action Plan for critically polluted areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such areas identified in general and in Maharashtra State in particular;

(c) the details of the schemes proposed to be implemented and the pattern of financing and the central fund allocated to the States. State-wise, during the current year and provision made for implementation of the scheme during 8th Plan; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the serious threat of pollution posed by a number of chemical and drug units in Patalganga-Thane-Belapur Road in Maharashtra alongwith the details of the defaulting units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board in consultation with the State Pollution Control Boards, based on the pollution load, have identified nineteen areas in the country, including the Chembur areas, as critically polluted areas. These critically polluted areas have been surveyed to assess the pollution problems and action plans to prevent further deterioration of

the environment have been prepared in respect of the fifteen areas so far. The details of the identified critically polluted areas are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Action Plan for Critically Polluted Areas in the Country

(a) and (b) The details of the identified critically polluted areas are :

1. Parwanoo (Himachal Pradesh)
2. Kalaamb (Himachal Pradesh)
3. Howrah (West Bengal)
4. Durgapur (West Bengal)
5. Dhanbad (Bihar)
6. Talcher (Orissa)
7. Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
8. Korba (Madhya Pradesh)
9. Manali-Madras (Tamil Nadu)
10. Bhadravati (Karnataka)
11. Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh)
12. Pali (Rajasthan)
13. North Arcot (Tamil Nadu)
14. Gobindgarh (Punjab)
15. Najafgarh (Delhi)
16. Vapi (Gujarat)
17. Chembur (Maharashtra)
18. Greater Cochin (Kerala)
19. Digboi (Assam)

(c) The schemes for abatement of pollution include Industrial Pollution Control Project. Promotion of construction of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for clusters of small Scale Industrial Units, Environmental Policy and Law and Hazardous Substances Management. The total out lay for the Annual Plan, 1992-93 and for the Eighth Plan period is Rs. 10.65 crores and Rs. 80.00 crores respectively. The state-wise allocation of funds depends on the demands received and the utilisation of releases in the various states.

(d) As reported by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, of the 25 chemical and drug units located in the Patalganga and Thane-Belapur Road, 23 are complying with the prescribed standards and the remaining two have been asked to comply by December, 1992.

Permission to ONGC to Invest in Canara Bank Mutual Fund

@232. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has given permission to ONGC to invest about Rs. 75 crores in Canara Bank Mutual Fund; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demands of Serving Doctors

*233. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had assured in November, 1991 to meet the demands of the serving doctors in the Central Government; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite repeated assurance no action has been taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) The assurance given was to consider the legitimate aspirations of the service doctors with an open mind. The Ministry of Health has taken earnest action for implementation of the Memorandum of Settlement concerning service doctors. The steps taken have led to considerable improvement in promotions and other benefits which now compare favourably with other Group A Central Services.

@Previously starred question 112, transferred from 1st December, 1992.